

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of making a suspended or soluble protein conjugate, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a reactive surface, ~~protein~~ a First Macromolecule that is capable of forming a ~~stable~~, disruptable bond with the reactive ~~solid-surface~~ surface, and a at least one Second Macromolecule,
 - b) contacting the ~~protein~~ First Macromolecule to the reactive ~~solid-surface~~ surface to form a ~~surface-bound-protein~~ complex comprising the First Macromolecule bound to the reactive surface by a disruptable bond,
 - c) if necessary, activating the ~~protein~~ First Macromolecule, or the at least one Second Macromolecule, or both,
 - d) contacting the ~~surface-bound-protein~~ complex comprising the First Macromolecule bound to the reactive surface with ~~a-reactive~~ the at least one Second Macromolecule to form a ~~solid-surface-protein:Second Macromolecule~~ stable complex comprising the reactive surface, the First Macromolecule, and the at least one Second Macromolecule, a covalent bond existing between the First Macromolecule and the at least one Second Macromolecule,
- disrupting the ~~stable~~ bond between the ~~solid-surface~~ reactive surface and the ~~protein-conjugate~~ First Macromolecule in a liquid medium to yield a suspended or soluble ~~protein~~ conjugate comprising the ~~protein~~ First Macromolecule and the Second Macromolecule.

Claims 2-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A conjugate produced by the method of claim 1, wherein the ~~conjugate comprises only one~~ First Macromolecule is a single antibody.

Claim 20 (original): A conjugate produced by the method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises a ~~predetermined number of~~ plurality of Second Macromolecules, which can be the same or different, said Second Macromolecules being antibodies, wherein the number of antibodies of the Second Macromolecule is between 2 and 30.

Claims 21-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A conjugate prepared according to claim 1 in which one of the macromolecules ~~, preferably the first,~~ comprises a chromophore rendering it optically distinguishable from the other macromolecule or macromolecules of the conjugate such that the ~~final~~ conjugate can be quantified according to the optical absorbance or fluorescence of said chromophore.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A conjugate according to claim 26, wherein ~~the macromolecule~~ one of the macromolecules is selected from the list group consisting of R-phycoerythrin, B-phycoerythrin, and allophycocyanin.

Claims 28-29 (canceled)